Please replace the abstract at page 16 with the following amended abstract:

To check a digital signature, using a microcircuit card ~~(53)~~, the microcircuit being designed to receive and to process requests to check digital signatures, the process comprises storing in a memory in the microcircuit ~~(53)~~ a certificates table ~~(5, 5')~~ containing digest forms of authorized public keys, and a phase ~~(2)~~ of checking a digital signature consisting of: receiving ~~(21)~~ by the microcircuit the digital signature ~~(Sig(Aip,M)~~ to be checked and a public key ~~(A1p)~~ corresponding to a private key that was used to generate the digital signature to be checked; calculating ~~(22)~~ a digest form ~~(Hash(A1p))~~ of the received public key, searching ~~(23)~~ for the calculated digest form of the public key in the certificates table ~~(5, 5')~~, and decrypting ~~(25)~~ the digital signature using the received public key if the calculated digest form of the public key is located in the certificates table.